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VLADIMIR MAKOVSKY'S "COME UNTO ME."

THE original is Matt. 11:28-30, 12:14-21 translated into paint. The scene is laid just outside a large town among the Galilean hills, in the clear shining of the Syrian sun. The blind, the lame, the sore-hearted and weary ones of its populace press appealingly around the tall, white-robed Redeemer, who with omniscient gaze moves among them in the quiet majesty of his divine sympathy and helpfulness. The artist — a Russian — Vladimir Makovsky, who should not be mistaken for an older brother Constantin, painter of a very different class of pictures, represents Christ as he utters the incomparable invitation, "Come unto me."

The picture throbs with the "sorrow of created things," bridging the span of human life by the patriarchal figure bent with the weight of heavy years, and the sick little son, brought for healing, in the arms of an anxious Bedouin father.

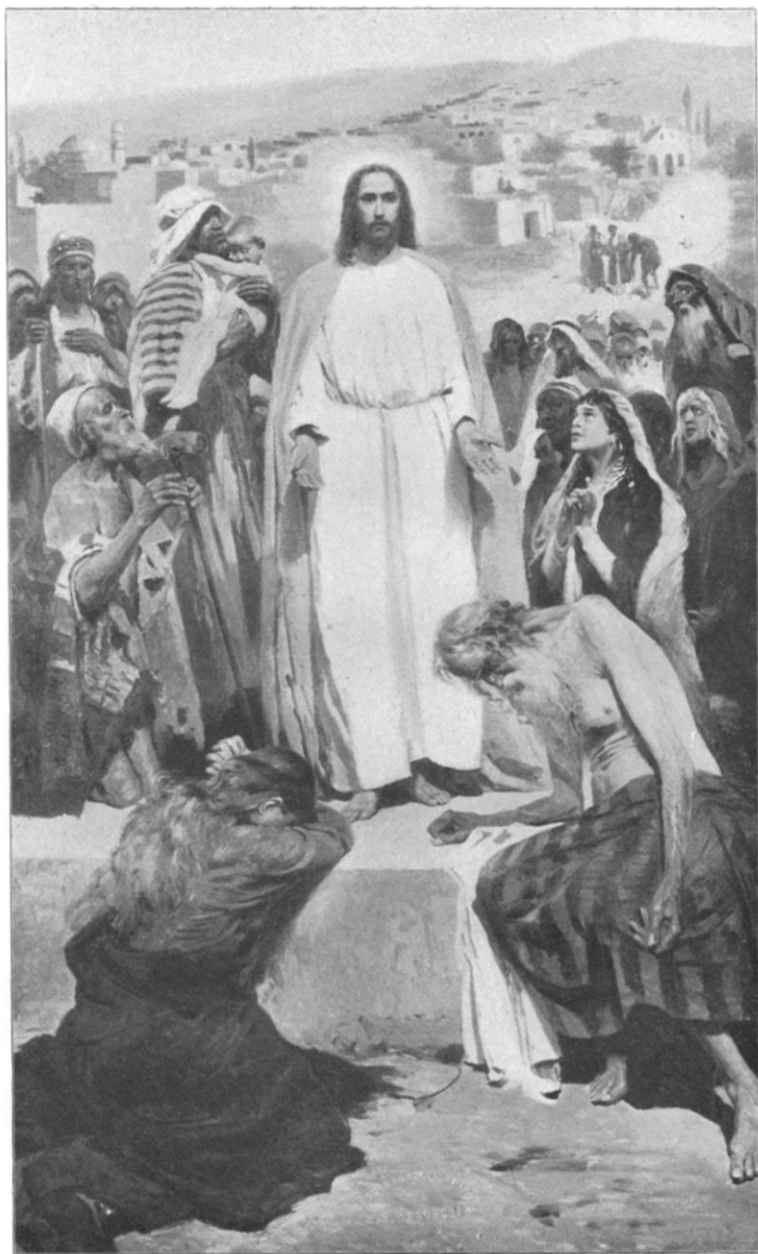
In the foreground a repentant woman prostrates herself prayerfully at the feet of the Master, hiding upon her arm the young face she shrinks from lifting to that of the Stainless One, who, knowing all her sad history, comes not to condemn, but graciously inspire to better living.

The lowliest and the privileged in the social scale meet in the scene, on the common ground of human need. An Ethiopian raises reverently to his lips the border of the healing robe; at his side kneels a woman richly attired, whose face is eloquent with the urgency of her petition.

There is told among the Russians a beautiful fable of a rare and wonderful plant that grows in the lowland steppes, whose tender blossoms are forever green, deathless, and free from all ravages of decay. Its sweetness is peculiar and has not its like upon the earth, to say nothing of its equal. The world is changed for him who breathes this ineffable fragrance. He is attuned to the harmony of the spheres. His wisdom is the widest, his knowledge the highest. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air divulge to him their secrets, and the song of the stars is his nightly inspiration.

Something of this sweet story of the lonely, barren steppes and its analogous resemblance to his subject must have been in the artist's mind when he painted this picture and thus depicted Him, that "tender plant and root out of a dry ground," who is become the Light and Life and Great Deliverer of men.

JOHN POWELL LENOX.



"COME UNTO ME"

Vladimir Makovsky